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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/926,084	08/27/2001	Makoto Syoda	213129US0PCT	1962
22850	7590	09/21/2004	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.			PAK, YONG D	
1940 DUKE STREET			ART UNIT	
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			PAPER NUMBER	

1652

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/926,084	SYODA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yong D Pak	1652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 4-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 2, 2004 has been entered.

Claims 1-23 are pending.

Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous Office action are hereby withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on November 27, 2001 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Priority

Applicant is advised of possible benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), wherein an application for patent filed in the United States may be entitled to the benefit of the filing date of a prior application filed in a foreign country.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 6 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 1, 6 and 16-20 are drawn to a peroxidase having physical/chemical characteristics recited in claim 1 without any description on the structure of the enzyme. Therefore, these claims are drawn to a genus of peroxidase, with any structure. The specification only teaches one representative species, SEQ ID NO:7, from *Geotrichum candidum* Dec 1 FERM BP-7033. Art teaches that the peroxidase of SEQ ID NO:7 is structurally unrelated to other peroxidases (see Sequence Search Result). Therefore, one representative species, SEQ ID NO:7, is not enough to describe the whole genus and there is no evidence on the record of the relationship between the structure of a *G. candidum* peroxidase and the structure of a peroxidase from another source. Therefore, the specification fails to describe other representative species of the genus of peroxidase.

Given this lack of description of the representative species encompassed by the genus of the claims, the specification fails to sufficiently describe the claimed invention

Art Unit: 1652

in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms that a skilled artisan would recognize that applicants were in possession of the inventions of claims 1, 6 and 16-20.

Claims 5 and 7-10 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

It is apparent that plasmids/microorganism(s) is/are required to practice the claimed invention. As a required element it/they must be known and readily available to the public or obtainable by a repeatable method set forth in the specification. If it/they is/are not so obtainable or available, the enablement requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, may be satisfied by a deposit of the microorganism(s). See 37 C.F.R. § 1.802.

The specification does not provide a repeatable process for obtaining the microorganism(s) and it is not apparent if the microorganism(s) is/are readily available to the public. The specification must contain the date that the microorganism(s) was/were deposited, the name of the microorganism(s) and the address of where the microorganism(s) was/were deposited.

If the deposit(s) has/have been made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty, then an affidavit or declaration by Applicants or someone associated with the patent owner who is in a position to make such assurances, or a statement by an attorney of record over his/her signature, and registration number, stating that the specific strain(s)

Art Unit: 1652

has/have been deposited under the Budapest Treaty and that all restrictions imposed by the depositor on the availability to the public of the deposited material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent, would satisfy the deposit requirements. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.808.

If the deposit(s) has/have not been made under the Budapest Treaty, then in order to certify that the deposit(s) meets the criteria set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.801-1.809, Applicant(s) may provide assurance of compliance by an affidavit or declaration, or by a statement by an Attorney of record over his/her signature and registration number, showing that:(a) during the pendency of this application, access to the invention will be afforded to the Commissioner upon request;(b) all restrictions upon availability to the public will be irrevocably removed upon granting of the patent;(c) the deposit(s) will be maintained in a public depository for a period of 30 years or 5 years after the last request or for the effective life of the patent, whichever is longer;(d) a viability statement in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.807; and (e) the deposit will be replaced should it become necessary due to inviability, contamination or loss of capability to function in the manner described in the specification.

In addition, the identifying information set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.809 (d) should be added to the specification. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.803-1.809 for additional explanation of these requirements.

Claims 1, 6 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a peroxidase having the amino acid

sequence of SEQ ID NO:7, does not reasonably provide enablement for a peroxidase of unknown structure. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Factors to be considered in determining whether undue experimentation is required are summarized in In re Wands 858 F.2d 731, 8 USPQ2nd 1400 (Fed. Cir. 1988). They include (1) the quantity of experimentation necessary, (2) the amount of direction or guidance presented, (3) the presence or absence of working examples, (4) the nature of the invention, (5) the state of the prior art, (6) the relative skill of those in the art, (7) the predictability or unpredictability of the art, and (8) the breadth of the claims.

The claims are drawn to a peroxidase having the characteristics recited in claim 1 with an insufficient limitation to its structure.

The structural limitations are as follows: physical/chemical characteristics which do not elucidate the structure of the polypeptide. Therefore, these claims encompass peroxidase having an unknown structure. Therefore, the breadth of these claims is much larger than the scope enable by the specification.

The scope of the claims is not commensurate with the enablement provided by the disclosure with regard to the extremely large number of constructs broadly encompassed by the claims. Also, despite knowledge in the art for the isolation of amino acids/polynucleotides, the specification fails to provide guidance regarding how

Art Unit: 1652

to isolate other polynucleotides encoding a peroxidase whose sequence is different from SEQ ID NO:71.

While recombinant and mutagenesis techniques are known, it is not routine in the art to screen a large number of possible combinations .

The predictability as to the level of conservation between the disclosed sequences and those of other peroxidase is extremely complex. While recombinant techniques are available, it is not routine in the art to screen large numbers of amino acids where the expectation of obtaining similar sequences is unpredictable. The amino acid sequence determines the structural and functional properties of an enzyme. Knowledge of which sequences can be altered or removed and still result in similar protein activity is well outside the realm of routine experimentation.

Therefore, one of ordinary skill would require guidance in order to make a peroxidase different from SEQ ID NO:7 in a manner reasonable correlated with the scope of the claims. Without such guidance, the experimentation left to those skilled in the art is undue.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1 and 4-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 1652

In claims 1, 6, 16-20 and 22, *Geotrichum candidum* should be capitalized to clearly denote it as the taxonomic name.

In claims 4-23, the phrase "according to claim" is confusing. For example, claim 7 can be read as a method of culturing the microorganism according to claim 5. However, claim 5 is drawn to a product and not a method. This rejection can be overcome by amending the claims by replacing said phrase with "of claim".

In claims 7-10 and 19, the phrase "wherein the contacting is performed" is confusing. It appears that the word "step" is missing from after "contacting".

Claims 7-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted steps are: in claims 7-10, the step of culturing the microorganism. In claims 11-16, steps of expressing, purifying and recovering the protein are missing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 6, 11-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kim et al.

Art Unit: 1652

Kim et al. (form PTO-1449 – Biotechnology and Bioengineering, Vol. 62, No. 1, pages 114-119) teaches an isolated and purified peroxidase from *G. candidum* Dec 1 FERM BP-7033 (page 115, 1st full paragraph on right column). Kim et al. also teaches a method of degrading and decolorizing a dye with said enzyme (pages 115-119). Since the peroxidase of Kim et al. and the instant invention are both derived from the same source, the two enzymes are identical and have the same structure.

Allowable Subject Matter

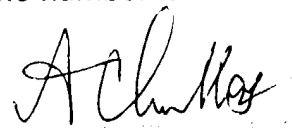
Claim 3 is allowable.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yong Pak whose telephone number is 571-272-0935. The examiner can normally be reached 6:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy can be reached on 571-272-0928. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9307 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-1600.

Yong D. Pak
Patent Examiner



Yong D. Pak
Patent Examiner